

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, December 1, 2008 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Schmidt	Trustee Brennan
Village Manager Zambrano	Trustee Gallelli
Village Attorney Staudt	Trustee Konig
	Trustee Olver

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the 2008 Croton Harmon High School New York State Finalists' football team were introduced. Mayor Schmidt read a proclamation making December 1, 2008 Croton Harmon Football Team day. Coach Catano said a few words on behalf of the team members.

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the vouchers as follows, subject to review by the Audit Committee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Konig and approved unanimously.

General Fund	\$ 34,473.42
Water Fund	4,594.65
Sewer Fund	-0-
Capital Account	365,541.79
Trust & Agency	125.00
Total	\$404,734.86

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

Village Manager Zambrano read the following correspondence (full text available at the Village Office):

- a) a flyer from Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi regarding a Save the V.A. Hospital press conference on December 3, at 2 PM at Cortland Town hall
- b) a letter from Sandra Sloan, Office of Consumer Services, NYS Dept. of Public Services regarding the Heatsmart initiative; the web site is [www.heatsmartny.org](http://www.heatsmartny.org) and the toll free hotline is 1 877 NYSMART.
- c) A letter from Linda Puglisi, Cortlandt Town Supervisor thanking the Village for assisting in the Veteran's Day Ceremony. Mayor Schmidt added that Croton is hosting the Pearl Harbor ceremony on December 7, 2008.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (agenda items): NONE

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

- a) On motion of TRUSTEE Brennan, seconded by TRUSTEE Gallelli, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village and the New York State DOT have entered into a snow and ice agreement which will expire on June 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Village has received an amendment to this contract extending the term to June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, under this amendment the indexed lump sum estimated expenditure shall be \$1,627 per lane mile for 11.24 lane miles for a total of \$18,287.48 for the 2008/09 season and for the remainder of the term of the Agreement commencing July 1, 2008, unless changed by future update,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation extending the term of the agreement to June 30, 2011.

- b) The proposed resolution regarding a volunteer's service award points was tabled upon the recommendation of Village Manager Zambrano.
- c) On motion of TRUSTEE Konig, seconded by TRUSTEE Olver, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village received 8 bids on November 19, 2008 for the Nordica Pump Station Phase I Rehabilitation and Washington Engine Company Generator Installation project; and

WHEREAS, PRM Electric was the lowest bidder with a bid of \$155,025 for the base work including rock excavation and \$9,000 for the alternate work which was for the installation of the old Police Department generator at the Washington Engine Fire House; and

WHEREAS, LynStaar Engineering has reviewed the bids, contacted the low bidder, who has taken no exceptions to the plans and specifications in submitting their bid, and reviewed the provided references; and

WHEREAS, based on preliminary conversations with the Fire Department the Village Engineer is recommending awarding the bid to PRM Electric solely for the base work at a cost of \$155,025,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to award the bid for the Nordica Pump Station – Phase I rehabilitation generator installation to PRM Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$155,025,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this amount be charged to capital account #H8120-2102-09180 (Nordica Pump Station Phase 1 Generator).

Discussion: This resolution is to replace the pump and generator at the Nordica Pump Station, excluding the Washington Engine generator; it has been funded in the current budget; the bid came in lower than expected. There will be a Phase II if funded by Board.

- d) On motion of TRUSTEE Brennan, seconded by TRUSTEE Konig, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Parks overtime account has been depleted mainly due to the increased work at Croton Landing Park; and

WHEREAS, this work entailed the preparation of its opening and the preparation of the facilities for the winter,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees authorizes a transfer of \$5,000 from the Contingent Account #A1990.4000 to the Recreation & Parks Account # A7140.1200.

6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (non-agenda items):

- a) Eileen Henry, Albany Post Road, asked about the status of the Harmon Improvement Project. Mayor Schmidt replied that the Board had discussions on this subject last week and it is moving along. Eileen Henry added that she thought the FAQs on the Village's web site are very good. Village Manager Zambrano added that today we put together a letter going out to the consultants who will be doing the RFP services.
- b) Ian Murtagh, 60 Young Ave., asked how the Harmon committee came to be formed and how was Kieran Murray, the chair, and the other members selected. Mayor Schmidt replied that they were a part of a group that got together and these members were recommended; they were not solicited. Trustee Gallelli added that at the time some of the Harmon vacancies started to occur, these people came together of their own volition. Mr. Murtagh stated that he was curious about possible ulterior motives, whether actual or presumed; however, the presentation was accurate and very well researched and the Board shouldn't be afraid of their recommendations.
- c) Demetra Tseckares-Restuccia, Cedar Lane, stated that at the work session the Board seemed to be at a "v" in the road which may be a waste of time and money; she would like to strongly advocate going in both directions and questioned how much that would cost. Mayor Schmidt replied that the cost depends on the depth of the consultants, etc.; the current consultants didn't step out of the box, they reviewed just the work that was done; the Village has vacant parcels that have been vacant for some time, not just recently; this study needs further review. Ms. Tseckares-Restuccia asked if the meeting

with the school board has happened. Mayor Schmidt replied that this meeting is scheduled. Trustee Konig added that the recommendation from the Harmon committee is a zoning change that might spread to other parts of the Village. Demetra Tseckares-Restuccia replied that the Village can isolate the zoning to just a part of the Village, rather than hold the project up for months and can create zoning so businesses can share the risk. She added that the Board should consider that when the younger children become older, there are few opportunities for them to get jobs in the Village. Trustee Brennan replied that he suggested a lot of items of concern and he hasn't seen business people come up and get involved; he saw just one speak at the last meeting. Ms. Tseckares-Restuccia replied that the business owners did work with this committee over a year ago; a number of people have come out in favor of this, including her and many more she knows; she feels a group of people are being listened to and other are being ignored.

- d) Kevin Davis, 17 Wolf Road, stated that he attended the meeting last Monday; it could have been a time for the Board and the Committee to discuss subjective issues, but he did not hear them; he does not agree members of the Committee have personal or hidden agendas; there is a need to have these people with professional backgrounds on the committee.
- e) Vito Divenere, 51 Farrington, stated that this Harmon project is an important issue to many in the Village; more are in favor of this project; something should be done so we are not sitting in the same position two years from now.
- f) Adam Rothberg, Old Post Road South, stated that he loves living in Croton, but the business area is a problem; bringing in new business improves life for everybody and brings down taxes; he offered his applause to committee members for putting in the time and hard work and presenting a good plan for esthetic improvement of the gateway; his concern is about not taking the next step for this proposal; he would hate to sit here 12 months from now; the plan is not perfect, but they got input and addressed some of the concerns. Mr. Rothberg asked if the consultant can be hired and then proceed with the next step; the recommendations are in sync with the comprehensive plan that was put together a few years ago; he urged all citizens to approach the plan with an open mind and bi-partisan spirit.
- g) Joanne Minnett, 5 Van Cortlandt Place, stated that the Croton Landing Trail is beautiful and it so nice to have it. Ms. Minnett added that she knew when she moved here that there would be limited shopping; the Croton Harmon area definitely needs work; it has been neglected for several years and businesses are certainly needed. She added that she likes the recommendations, but there are changes that can be made, but she doesn't want to see a lot of money spent on consultants; would rather use professionals on the committee; decisions cannot be made at the snap of a finger, but the right changes need to be made.
- h) Jan Nolte, Observatory Drive, stated that this community is a diverse community, but doesn't always see this in the surroundings; doesn't hear the over all vision on where Croton can go; the lack of attendance at Village Board meetings doesn't mean a lack of support for the proposal; it would be great to broaden the tax base so generations can stay here; work around the fear and concerns and approach this is with a new open mind.

Mayor Schmidt stated that there were good statements made tonight; be clear that the Board is not stalled; he is not quite sure this is the vision people want; it should not be looked at as a return of investment for developers; take a step back and see what the vision of the community is; this is a river town and the focus should be on that; Croton Landing is an example of recapturing the river once again; every member of the Board sees that this area needs to be helped, however, this and all committees are formed to make recommendations but he appreciates everyone's comments.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on November 17, 2008 at 7:40 pm. Trustee Olver seconded the motion. The Board voted approval with Trustee Konig abstaining.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 17, 2008 as corrected. Trustee Olver seconded the motion. The Board voted approval with Trustee Konig abstaining

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting held on November 17, 2008 at 9:35 pm. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion. The Board voted approval with Trustee Konig abstaining.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on November 17, 2008 at 10:15 pm. Trustee Olver seconded the motion. The Board voted approval with Trustee Konig abstaining.

Trustee Olver made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on November 24, 2008. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval.

8. REPORTS:

*Village Manager Zambrano* reported that Benedict Blvd paving is starting tomorrow; the milling was done last week; they will also be doing Wayne & Clinton Streets this week. He reported that several notices have been sent via Connect CTY over the last few months; there were some errors on the reverse 911 system; he asked residents to go to the Village web site home page to register phone numbers to receive the messages or come into the Village Office to submit the information; all information is for the sole use of the Village in case of emergencies. Mr. Zambrano reported that Westchester County has put together a list of citizens who may require extra assistance in case of emergency; this information will be shared with local municipalities. He added that Village departments are working on an emergency plan; the Town of Cortlandt is executing their emergency plan on December 3rd and he has been invited to attend. Village Manager Zambrano reported that this past Wednesday, he received the final Westchester Citizen's Task Force pamphlet on White Tailed Deer and Forest Regeneration; this will be put on the web site.

*Trustee Konig* asked for more information about the Pearl Harbor ceremony. Mayor Schmidt replied that it is Sunday, at 1 pm in the Municipal Building. Trustee Konig mentioned that the

new Village Treasurer will be starting shortly and will have a hard time with the economy and the necessity to tighten belts; she would like people to become engaged in the budget preparation. Trustee Konig stated that several local businesses do hire teen agers. Trustee Konig named several local shops new to the Village; a new ice cream shop is opening soon and a consignment shop has opened. Trustee Konig stated that, regarding the Harmon Development Committee, she is on the record to disband the committee; they have done a lot of work and now it is up to the Board; she does not want to write a law and put it up for SEQRA review unless there is an intent to pass that law; there is a need to be prudent about more housing; it was said at the meeting the other night, that the Village might go under, but that is not true. Trustee Konig stated that the microphones found in the Village office were found to be not suspicious; she agrees no crime was committed, but she was upset to hear about those microphones; the Board needs to be watchful for safety and security; it is open government.

*Trustee Olver* stated that regarding the microphones, he saw no suggestions that there was any stealth or deception; it was equipment leading to large sized equipment that was used some time ago; there is no basis to cast aspersions on anyone in the past based on what was learned from the investigation; he is satisfied that it was a purely innocent recording system. Trustee Olver reported that the football team celebrated this evening, but at the beginning of the season, no one thought they would go half as far as they did; we have huge talents in this Village; we are a community that can do amazing things when pulling together. He added that on the Harmon Economic Development Committee, there were two misapprehensions that turned up this evening: why mixed use? It is because the committee was satisfied after the report from the consultants that larger scale businesses would not be viable for Harmon area; mixed use with smaller business. Regarding SEQRA, he added that it is a formal process in which investigations are done on all issues pertaining to a set of proposals; it is a formal structured process to answer questions that were raised. Trustee Olver reported that this is the holiday season and in the spirit of giving thanks, the Annual Blood Drive will be held on the 6th; it is a time to renew support of the Croton Caring Committee and others. He reminded everyone that on Saturday, 9:30 am, the CAC will be at the train station to replant the flower bed. Trustee Olver spoke about the budget for next year; they will have to make a number of hard choices; an open citizens' forum will be held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 to 4 pm in the public library to discuss the budget in this economy and what should be put on the back burner; they need an open community discussion on specific tax impact issues.

*Trustee Gallelli* stated that is wonderful to see the group of young men, families and friends who have performed so well this season; the value of athletics to all students who take part in any after-school activity is that there are no losers in those who participate. Trustee Gallelli reported that at their last meeting, the Planning Board had a Public Hearing on the new cell tower; there were no speakers for or against and it was easily passed; now on to construction. Trustee Gallelli reported that the Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee has submitted a revised draft for a master plan; there will be a meeting at a work session in January. Regarding the Harmon Economic Development Committee, the FAQs she requested be put on web was done today; this may help in satisfying questions. She commented that the school meeting was held on Tuesday night to discuss results of survey taken by last year's 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders regarding the use of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana; the meeting was very well attended, over 160 people; the next steps will

be outlined in a meeting next Thursday at the school; a lot of community groups will be involved in moving this forward.

*Trustee Brennan* congratulated the High School football team; they did outstanding and everyone who participates in sports comes out a winner, as long as they are playing fair. Trustee Brennan added that regarding Veterans Day, he was sorry to have missed the ceremony, but has a deep respect for all Veterans. Regarding the microphones, even though the investigation found no wrong doing, they really don't know what they were doing there; the fact that they were found is unnerving. Trustee Brennan added that everyone on the Board is interesting in helping the Harmon area; some have different opinions; he doesn't believe there were any ulterior motives; he wants everyone to come together without bringing too much density in that area; the plan has a lot of good aspects, whether or not this committee should be disbanded, he doesn't know; he is struggling with the idea of creating housing to help retail; they have the whole Village to look at, not just this one area. Trustee Brennan stated that he thinks they will have a very good budget this year; the Village is in outstanding financial standing this year; they will keep salaries flat and keep services high and make sure the taxpayer is being taken care of. He added that when talking about creating retail and housing to offset tax base, the Village tax is a small part of your total tax; the school and county budget account for much more. He reported that at 10:30 am Monday, the County will have discussion about proposed county salary increases.

*Mayor Schmidt* stated that a lot was heard tonight; he spends a lot of time and effort to make Croton a better place; some things done over the last couple of years are the cell tower, upgrade of the Municipal Building, bringing the Historical Society back to the Municipal Building, improved relations with the Town of Cortlandt, including looking at shared services, the bicycle-pedestrian committee is happening now, the school drug and alcohol committee, continuation of the sidewalk project which helps make it a walking community, standing firm in the fight against the waste industry; when it comes to the Harmon Development Committee, he is proud that there is such a committee, now it is time for the Board to take the recommendations and find how to define the community to make it better for ourselves and our children; this community is in a very healthy budget position right now, but are looking at other tax revenues; the community is one to be proud of.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Phyllis A. Bradbury**

---

Phyllis A. Bradbury, Secretary

---

Village Clerk